
Name of Organization: Legal Institute of the Great Lakes

Type of Organization: College or University

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Project Title: Study of Great Lakes Water Quality Standards

Project Category: Pollution Prevention and Reduction - BNS

Rank by Organization (if applicable): 0

Total Funding Requested (\$): 37,599 **Project Duration:** 2 Years

Abstract:

In 1995 the USEPA, as a result of adoption of the Water Quality Guidance for the Great Lakes System (WQGGLS) - 40 CFR 132, required the states in the Great Lakes Basin to adopt at least minimum water quality standards for certain toxic substances harmful to the Lakes' ecosystem. The adoption of the standards by the states presumed to provide a more uniform regulatory framework for both the regulated and the regulators. Prior to the adoption of WQGGLS, for example, Lake Erie had up to five, counting Canada, different standards being applied to this one waterbody.

Even with the attempt to obtain more consistent basin-wide standards, they continue to vary from state to state. The states, while generally following the guidance provided in 40 CFR 132, adopted standards that used different expressions of chemical formula quantities, differing test procedures and different levels of protection for the same chemical. Some states apparently adopted stricter standards than the minimum required and as a result different standards continue to apply to the same waterbodies. Also, the format of the adopted standards varies from state to state. This makes a state to state or lake to lake comparison difficult.

This proposal will compare the standards adopted by the states and the provinces as of May 2000 with the recommended standards set forth in 40 CFR 132. The results will be published and made available for all interested parties.

Geographic Areas Affected by the Project

States:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New York
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minnesota	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ohio

Lakes:

<input type="checkbox"/> Superior	<input type="checkbox"/> Erie
<input type="checkbox"/> Huron	<input type="checkbox"/> Ontario
<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Lakes

Geographic Initiatives:

<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Chicago	<input type="checkbox"/> NE Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/> NW Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/> SE Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake St. Clair
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Primary Affected Area of Concern: Not Applicable

Other Affected Areas of Concern:

For Habitat Projects Only:

Primary Affected Biodiversity Investment Area: Not Applicable

Other Affected Biodiversity Investment Areas:

Problem Statement:

Pursuant to 40 CFR 132 the Great Lake states were encouraged to enact water quality standards as set forth in the aforementioned federal section. Through these guidelines, there was an attempt to provide a more consistent regulatory framework throughout the Great Lakes Basin as well as a minimum for water quality. Necessarily, all the states did not mimic the minimum guidelines set up by the USEPA. As currently enacted, the standards vary from state to state. Different mathematical expressions of chemical quantities and attainment levels were used. Since there are different ways of testing quality and of expressing the tests, it is difficult to compare the standards established from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. The formats and categories of standards also vary from state to state.

The result is that it is difficult, even for those intimately involved, to compare the various standards and to effectively evaluate the goal of the entire process of improving the water quality in the Great Lakes by determining those areas where there is a pollution problem caused by failure to achieve standards from those where the problem is a failure of the standards themselves. An involved and informed citizenry is a key to pollution prevention in the Great Lakes. The creation of a readable comparative survey of the standards will work towards providing basin-wide understanding of the standards as they exist in the various jurisdictions.

Proposed Work Outcome:

We will develop and publish a document collecting and comparing all of the applicable standards from the great lakes basin area as well as similar standards from the Province of Ontario. The comparison will be non-evaluative in the sense that it will not attempt to be judgmental as to the quality or appropriateness of any standard but be designed to permit scientists and non-scientists who have to work with this data to compare the standards which have been adopted by the various states and provinces.

Project Milestones:

Dates:

Project Start

10/2000

All Standards Gathered

03/2001

First Draft Prepared

08/2001

Peer Review of Document

03/2002

Publication/ dissemination of document

09/2002

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Project End

09/2002



Project Addresses Environmental Justice

If So, Description of How:



Project Addresses Education/Outreach

If So, Description of How:

This document will be published and made available to all interested parties. Published version will be sent without charge to selected libraries and institutions within the basin. We will also include the document on our web page. A printed version of the document will be available from the Institute at cost plus the cost of shipping. We will continually, through the years and as funds are available, update document on our web site. We plan to have present our findings at one of our annual environmental conference.

Project Budget:

	Federal Share Requested (\$)	Applicant's Share (\$)
Personnel:	20,000	1,569
Fringe:	1,844	432
Travel:	0	0
Equipment:	0	0
Supplies:	1,075	75
Contracts:	5,000	0
Construction:	0	0
Other:	0	0
Total Direct Costs:	27,919	2,076
Indirect Costs:	9,680	759
Total:	37,599	2,835
Projected Income:	0	0

Funding by Other Organizations (Names, Amounts, Description of Commitments):

No other funding sources have been explored or are contemplated.

Description of Collaboration/Community Based Support:

The Lake Erie Center at the University of Toledo will collaborate in this effort.